

Eugene SD 4J

Funded amount \$499,810

In collaboration with community-based organizations, Eugene School District 4J's BEST Connections Afterschool Program engages youth in grades 1-8 in academic and enrichment opportunities to fulfill a vision of youth flourishing with self-confidence, determination, a joy of learning, and a sense of community. BC provides enriching afterschool programs for focal students in need of expanded learning opportunities.

Goals include:

- Fostering mutually respectful relationships through a culturally sensitive and inclusive lens that honors students' individually, diversity, and voice
- Boosting academic achievement for students facing an opportunity gap
- Creating an environment that supports critical positive youth development
- Collaborating with community-based organizations to enhance enrichment opportunities
- Continually improving the program with responsive practices that empower students to become viable citizens of the 21st century

Students in four elementary and one middle school will have small group learning opportunities through which they learn and explore at their own pace with help from supportive adults.

Outcomes from participation include:

- Significant Gains in Academic Achievement
- Better attitudes about school, with higher educational aspirations
- Gains in Math and Literacy
- Social Emotional Development
- Deeper relationships with peers and teachers
- Increased self-confidence, self-efficacy and higher levels of help-seeking behavior
- Health and Wellness
- Increased self-regulation
- Improved social awareness and relationship skills